

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07 COME-00 FMC-01 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR:VT

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

----- 001735

R 050033Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO US COAST GUARD

JUSTICE

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COGARD FOR MR. MANCLARK - JUSTICE FOR MR. MARUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, ETRN, PFOR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST BOMB INCIDENT INVOLVING

PASSENGER LINER QUOTE MAXIM GORKIY UNQUOTE

1. ON NOVEMBER 3, SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR
VORONTSOV CALLED ON SOV DIRECTOR GARRISON TO PROTEST AN
INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 1, IN WHICH THE SOVIET
PASSENGER LINER QUOTE MAXIM GORKIY UNQUOTE WAS DAMAGED BY
A BOMB EXPLOSION IN SAN JUAN HARBOR.

2. VORONTSOV PRESENTED A NOTE WHICH STATED THAT THE SHIP'S
HULL AND STEERING MECHANISM HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY THIS
QUOTE TERROIST ACT UNQUOTE. THE NOTE CALLED THE
DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO A SIMILAR INCIDENT INVOLVING THE
QUOTE GORKIY UNQUOTE THAT HAD OCCURRED IN SAN JUAN IN
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DECEMBER 1974, IN WHICH SOVIET CREW MEMBERS HAD BEEN INJURED.

THE NOTE DEMANDED QUOTE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THIS CRIME AND PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY PARTIES UNQUOTE, IT ALSO ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE QUOTE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF SOVIET SHIPS IN US PORTS AND THE PREVENTION OF A REPETITION OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE UNQUOTE.

3. IN HIS ORAL COMMENTS, VORONTSOV STRESSED SOVIET CONCERN THAT THIS WAS A REPETITION OF THE EARLIER INCIDENT, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN QUOTE NO VISIBLE SIGN OF ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES UNQUOTE TO DETERMINE WHO HAD SET OFF THE BOMB LAST DECEMBER. VORONTSOV POINTED OUT THAT 600 AMERICAN PASSENGERS HAD BEEN ABOARD THE QUOTE GORKIY UNQUOTE ON NOVEMBER 1, AND THAT SUCH INCIDENTS ARE THEREFORE A THREAT TO AMERICAN AS WELL AS SOVIET LIVES.

4. GARRISON SAID THAT THE US GOVERNMENT REGRETS THIS INCIDENT. IN THIS CASE, THERE FORTUNATELY HAD BEEN NO INJURIES TO CREW OR PASSENGERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SECURITY OF COMMERCIAL VESSELS IS TECHNICALLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNERS, BUT HE ASSURED VORONTSOV THAT THERE WOULD BE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT, AND THAT OUR INVESTIGATION OF LAST YEAR'S INCIDENT WOULD CONTINUE. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: greeneet
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